

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PRESS

December 15, 1952 NO. 920

The Department of State today made the following announcements in regard to the loyalty cases of Foreign Service officers John Paton Davies and John Carter Vincent:

The Loyalty Review Board of the Civil Service Commission notified the Department on December 12, that it had "arrived at the conclusion that there is no reasonable doubt of the loyalty of Mr. John Paton Davies, Jr., to the Government of the United States." Accordingly, the Loyalty Review Board approved the favorable finding of the State Department Loyalty Security Board which had cleared Mr. Davies on October 17, 1952.

The Loyalty Review Board has also notified the Department of its conclusion in the case of Mr. John Carter Vincent, "that there is a reasonable doubt as to his loyalty to the Government of the United States." In making this finding the Loyalty Review Board noted specifically that it had not found Mr. Vincent "guilty of disloyalty."

Mr. Vincent, who is 53 years old, served in the U.S. Army in the First World War and has over thirty years Government Service.

The Department has today suspended Mr. Vincent who is charged Minister and Diplomatic Agent at Tangier, and has ordered him home. The recommendation of the Loyalty Review Board that Mr. Vincent be terminated has been brought to the attention of the President who will discuss the matter with Secretary of State Acheson upon the latter's return from the NATO Conference in Paris.

The complete texts of the letters of the Loyalty Review Board in regard to Mr. Davies and Mr. Vincent follow:

## "UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Washington 25, D.C.

"December 12, 1952

"The Honorable

"The Secretary of State

" In Re: Case of JOHN CARTER VINCENT  
Chief of Mission, Tangier, Morocco

"Sir:

" Under the provisions of Regulation 14 of the Rules and Regulations of the Loyalty Review Board, a panel of the Board has considered the case of the above named employee. The members of the panel reviewed the entire record in the case and heard the testimony of Mr. Vincent in person and argument of counsel on his behalf.

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"Without expressly accepting or rejecting the testimony of Louis Budenz that Mr. Vincent was a Communist and 'under Communist discipline' or the findings of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (a) that 'over a period of years John Carter Vincent was the principal fulcrum of I.P.R. pressures and influence in the State Department' and (b) that 'Owen Lattimore and John Carter Vincent were influential in bringing about a change in the United States Policy in 1945 favorable to the Chinese Communists', the panel has taken these factors into account.

"Furthermore, the panel calls attention to the fact that Mr. Vincent was not an immature or subordinate representative of the State Department but was an experienced and responsible official who had been stationed in China from April 1924 to February 1936 and from March 1941 to August 1943, and who thereafter occupied high positions in the Department of State having to do with the formulation of our Chinese policies.

"The panel notes Mr. Vincent's studied praise of Chinese Communists and equally studied criticism of the Chiang Kai-shek Government throughout a period when it was the declared and established policy of the Government of the United States to support Chiang Kai-shek's Government.

"The panel notes also Mr. Vincent's indifference to any evidence that the Chinese Communists were affiliated with or controlled by the U.S.S.R.

"Mr. Vincent's failure properly to discharge his responsibilities as Chairman of the Far Eastern Subcommittee of State, War and Navy to supervise the accuracy or security of State Department documents emanating from that Subcommittee, was also taken into account.

"Finally, the panel calls attention to Mr. Vincent's close association with numerous persons who, he had reason to believe, were either Communists or Communist sympathizers.

"To say that Mr. Vincent's whole course of conduct in connection with Chinese affairs does not raise a reasonable doubt as to his loyalty, would, we are forced to think, be an unwarranted interpretation of the evidence. While we are not required to find Mr. Vincent guilty of disloyalty and we do not do so, his conduct in office, as clearly indicated by the record, forces us reluctantly to conclude that there is reasonable doubt as to his loyalty to the Government of the United States.

"Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Loyalty Review Board that the services of Mr. John Carter Vincent be terminated.

"Very truly yours,

"HIRAM BINGHAM

"Chairman

"Loyalty Review Board"

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"UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
"Washington 25, D.C.

"December 12, 1952

"The Honorable

"The Secretary of State

"In Re: Case of JOHN PATON DAVIES, JR.  
Foreign Service Officer

"Sir:

"Under the provisions of Regulation 14 of the Rules and Regulations of the Loyalty Review Board, a panel of the Board has considered the case of the above named employee. The members of the panel reviewed the entire record in the case and heard the testimony of Mr. Davies in person and argument of counsel on his behalf. The panel also heard the testimony of several witnesses and considered additional top-secret evidence.

"It is not within the province of the Loyalty Review Board to approve or disapprove of the wisdom or judgment of Mr. Davies as a Foreign Service Officer and we do not purport to do so.

"After a full study of the entire record, and after listening to the highly confidential testimony of General Walter Bedell Smith, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Ambassador George Kennan, former head of the policy planning staff of the State Department, particularly with regard to Mr. Davies' suggested utilization by the C.I.A. of the services of persons alleged to be Communists, we have arrived at the conclusion that there is no reasonable doubt of the loyalty of Mr. John Paton Davies, Jr., to the Government of the United States.

"Accordingly, the findings of the State Department Loyalty Security Board are hereby approved.

"Very truly yours,

"HIRAM BINGHAM

"Chairman

"Loyalty Review Board"

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